



Traumatic Brain Injury Polytrauma System of Care

Department of Veterans Affairs

Emerging Consciousness Program

Welcome to the Richmond VA Polytrauma Rehabilitation Center's Emerging Consciousness Program. As a family member, we want to help you transition into our program as easily as possible. To facilitate that we will provide you with education and support as you entrust your loved one to our care.

A brain injury can cause a change in awareness of our self and the environment. A *severe* brain injury can dramatically alter this awareness. It is our goal, as trained brain injury professionals, to provide necessary and effective care. Using interdisciplinary medical, nursing, and rehabilitation services we will work to: 1) improve your loved one's responsiveness and return to consciousness, 2) optimize long term function, and 3) facilitate advancement to the next level of rehabilitation. We will work to accomplish this by providing individualized treatment designed to cognitively and environmentally stimulate in a structured manner, while treating or preventing medical or physical conditions that may hinder that return to consciousness.

During your first few days with us, you will begin to meet our treatment team. Team members who are caring for your loved one will come by to meet you and provide an initial assessment of your loved one. These meetings will help us to develop a personalized treatment plan. Our team will meet with you informally (stopping by to check-in or answer questions) and formally (scheduled therapeutic treatment sessions and scheduled family meetings). After you have been with us for three weeks, we will schedule an admission meeting. At the admission meeting, the entire team will meet with you and any other family members who wish to be present. We will schedule a similar meeting once you have been in the program for 45 days and again a few weeks from discharge. Team members are always available to answer your questions.

Severe brain injury affects not just the individual, but the family. We work hard to involve the family in our program and the team process. Please let us know about your concerns and thoughts as we move through this program together. Recognize that you have arrived at a facility that can provide the treatment that your loved one needs and the care that he deserves. We want to extend that care to you as well. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

Ajit B. Pai, MD
Medical Director
Polytrauma Rehabilitation Center